

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A household appliance for integrating into a section of a worktop, comprising:

a formed or milled operating strip containing at least one operating element;

said operating strip including a supporting surface on a lower side thereof for supporting the household appliance on the worktop at a first side of the household appliance;

the appliance having a circumferential edge around only the remaining sides of the household appliance and not the first side, said circumferential edge for supporting the remaining sides of the household appliance on the worktop.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip has a material thickness that changes in dependence on given requirements.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip consists of a semi-finished product made of solid material.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip is formed with at least one recess for an appliance component.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 20, wherein said recess together with said supporting surface is constructed on an underside of said operating strip.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 20, wherein said operating strip is formed with at least one mounting recess wherein a housing-side fixing flange of a housing portion is in abutment with said operating strip.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said housing-side fixing flange engages in said at least one mounting recess of the operating strip offset backwardly relative to said supporting surface or flush with said supporting surface.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 20, wherein said at least one recess is substantially surrounded by said supporting surface of said operating strip.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said mounting recess has an edge surrounding said housing-side fixing flange substantially with a form lock.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein an inside of said mounting recess of said operating strip has a plug-in recess formed therein for inserting a corresponding plug-in portion on said housing portion.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 26, which further comprises a plastic adapter disposed on said plug-in portion and configured for inserting said plug-in portion with a form lock in said plug-in recess of said operating strip.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said housing-side fixing flange is connected to said operating strip by way of a screw connection.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein an inside of said mounting recess of said operating strip is formed with a mounting surface, and said fixing flange comes into detachable abutment with said mounting surface.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said mounting recess is one of a plurality of mounting recesses spaced apart from one another are formed in the underside of said operating strip.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 30, wherein at least one recess for said operating element is disposed between said mounting recesses.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 31, wherein said mounting recess and/or said at least one recess for said operating element are arranged one after the other in a row.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip is formed with a recess for receiving an operating element of the appliance and with one or more mounting recesses for receiving a housing-side fixing flange, and wherein said mounting

recesses and said recess for said operating element are disposed in a row.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A household appliance for integration into a section of a worktop, comprising:

a housing portion including a housing-side fixing flange;

a formed or milled operating strip containing at least one operating element and having a supporting surface on a lower side thereof in contact with the worktop for supporting the household appliance on the worktop;

said operating strip including at least one recess for an appliance component and at least one mounting recess in said supporting surface; and

said housing-side fixing flange of said housing portion abutting said operating strip.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The household appliance of claim 34, wherein said housing-side fixing flange is connected to said operating strip by way of a screw connection.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A household appliance for integration into a section of a worktop, comprising:

a housing portion including a housing-side fixing flange;

a formed or milled operating strip containing at least one operating element and having a supporting surface on a lower side thereof in contact with the worktop for supporting the household appliance on the worktop;

said operating strip including at least one recess in said supporting surface for an appliance component, ~~said at least one recess together with said supporting surface being constructed on an underside of said operating strip~~; and

said at least one recess being substantially surrounded by said supporting surface of said operating strip.